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of all Forms of
Racial Discrimination

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 9
OF THE CONVENTION

Fourteenth periodic report of States parties due in 1996

Addendum

Kuwait*

[Original: ARABIC]
[19 June 1997]

* This document contains the thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports of Kuwait due on 4 January 1994 and 1996, respectively. For the tenth, eleventh and twelfth periodic reports of Kuwait, submitted in one document, and the summary record of the meetings at which the Committee considered that report, see documents CERD/C/226/Add.5 and CERD/C/SR.995-996.

The annexes mentioned in the report can be consulted in the files of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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Introduction

1. With reference to the note dated 15 November 1996 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations in which he pointed out that the State of Kuwait had not submitted its thirteenth and fourteenth reports on the said Convention, which were due in 1994 and 1996 respectively, and drew the attention of the State of Kuwait to the fact that the Committee established under the said Convention had proposed that a single report, combining the aforementioned reports and following the guidelines concerning the framework and content of such reports, could be submitted to the said Committee in time for its consideration, the competent authorities in the State of Kuwait, before reviewing the views and concepts contained in this report concerning the Convention in question, wish to make the following basic comments which they feel should be included in the introduction to this report.

2. The Kuwaiti authorities are extremely eager to cooperate and liaise with international and other organizations and committees concerned with human rights issues and to provide them with its successive reports on the human rights situation in Kuwait and the positive developments therein.

3. The State of Kuwait's tenth, eleventh and twelfth reports, which were prepared and submitted in 1993 to the Committee established under the Convention in question, contained a detailed review of the status of the legislation and regulations in force in the State of Kuwait concerning the issue of the elimination of racial discrimination.

4. Since the above-mentioned reports contained an extensive legal review, the authorities regard its comprehensive content as sufficient from the legal standpoint and wish it to be considered as an integral part of this report (annex 1) without prejudice to the references made in this report to the new provisions that have been incorporated in the legislation and legal regulations of the State of Kuwait during the period from the submission of the previous reports to the time of preparation of this report covering the positive developments aimed at achieving further progress in the human rights situation in Kuwait.

5. The competent authorities in the State of Kuwait have given careful consideration to the comments of the distinguished members of the Committee, some of which are reflected in the amendments that have been made to some of the legislation and regulations in force in the State of Kuwait.

6. Since the consideration of Kuwait's tenth, eleventh and twelfth reports by the said Committee, the competent authorities in the State of Kuwait have diligently provided some United Nations committees with a number of reports concerning aspects of the human rights situation in Kuwait which are similar to the aspect covered by the Convention under review. Those reports, which highlighted the positive developments that had taken place in the human rights situation in Kuwait, included the following:

(a) The note that Kuwait submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in April 1995 concerning the measures taken by Kuwait to implement the Programme of Action of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(b) The State of Kuwait's note concerning aspects of Kuwait's implementation, at the domestic level, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action promulgated in June 1993;

(c) The note expressing the State of Kuwait's viewpoint concerning the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (annex 2).

7. The State of Kuwait recently invited Mr. Maurice Glélé-Ahanhanzo, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination, to observe, at first hand, the situation prevailing in Kuwait. This is a clear indication of the policy of transparency that the State of Kuwait is pursuing in its approach to controversial issues, particularly those relating to human rights.

8. It should be noted that detailed reference will be made, in subsequent sections of this report, to the matters mentioned in the above paragraphs.

9. In the light of the above, the State of Kuwait is submitting this report, which has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 1980. In keeping with those guidelines, this report is divided into the following three parts:

Part I: the general part covering the three aspects mentioned in the guidelines.

Part II: comprising information concerning the legislative and judicial measures taken by Kuwait in compliance with the provisions of articles 2 to 7 of the Convention.

Part III: containing the replies to the questions and comments submitted by the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to the representative of the Government of the State of Kuwait at the 995th and 996th meetings held on 9 August 1993.

I. GENERAL

10. As already indicated, this part covers the three following aspects:

(a) A brief outline of the State's policy in regard to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the legal framework within which racial discrimination, as defined in article 1 of the Convention, is prohibited and is being eliminated;

(b) Provision of information concerning the demographic composition of the State in accordance with the fourth general recommendation adopted by the Committee on 16 August 1973 in which the States parties were called upon to endeavour to include information relating to the demographic composition of their population in the reports that they submitted to the Committee under the terms of article 9 of the Convention;

(c) Clarification of whether the provisions of the Convention could be invoked before the courts and other judicial bodies or administrative authorities and whether the latter could enforce those provisions directly or whether they would have to be converted into domestic legislation or administrative regulations so that the competent authorities could put them into effect.

A detailed account of the above aspects is given below.

The policy of the State of Kuwait in regard to the elimination of racial discrimination

11. In order to clarify this policy and the framework within which racial discrimination is prohibited and is being eliminated, in its previous report submitted to the Committee the State of Kuwait carefully reviewed all the pertinent legal facts concerning its proper and meticulous implementation of the Convention in fulfilment of its international and national obligations based on its firm rejection of all types and forms of racial discrimination and its eager desire to ensure that its Constitution and all its legislation are fully consistent with, and guarantee respect for, those values and principles.

12. In this connection, the State of Kuwait also wishes to emphasize that the political and legal position of the State of Kuwait in regard to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination is firmly established and stems from the values which are deeply rooted in the conscience of Kuwaiti society and are consistent and in conformity with the principles that are firmly embedded in the conscience of human civilization, which rejects racial discrimination and segregation.

13. In keeping with this position and in pursuance of the State's policy of promoting and consolidating the principle of equality of all members of society and guaranteeing all their rights and freedoms, since the submission of its previous report Kuwait has achieved outstanding progress in the field of human rights in general, and in the field of the elimination of all forms of discrimination in particular, at the national and international levels, as can be seen from the following.

At the national level

14. First of all, it should be noted that the State of Kuwait has taken numerous legal and practical measures to achieve further progress in the prevention and elimination of discrimination. These measures cover various fields, such as nationality, expansion of the electoral base by granting all naturalized persons the right to vote in elections to the National Assembly and the Municipal Council, securing the rights of persons residing illegally

in the country (known as the bidoon) and women, and the status of foreign labour, in addition to the endeavours of governmental and non-governmental organizations to achieve further progress in the human rights situation in Kuwait. These measures are detailed in the following paragraphs.

15. Nationality. In this connection, it is noteworthy that, under the terms of Act No. 44 of 1994, it was decided to add a new paragraph to article 7 of the Nationality Act (Decree No. 15 of 1959) under which the children of naturalized persons born after their father acquired Kuwaiti nationality would be regarded as being of Kuwaiti origin. This provision also applies to those born prior to the entry into force of that Act. This undoubtedly constitutes a positive step towards the standardization of nationality (annex 3).

16. Granting naturalized persons the right to vote in elections to the National Assembly and the Municipal Council. It is noteworthy that, under the terms of Act No. 32 of 1995, which amended some of the provisions of Amiral Decree No. 15 of 1959 promulgating the Kuwaiti Nationality Act and of Act No. 35 of 1962 concerning the election of members of the National Assembly, naturalized persons were granted the right to vote. In accordance with this amendment, which undoubtedly expanded the electoral base in the State of Kuwait, naturalized persons exercised their right to vote in the Municipal Council elections which were held in May 1995 and also in the National Assembly elections which were held in October 1996 (annex 4).

17. Persons residing in the country illegally (the bidoon). In this connection, it should first of all be noted that the competent authorities in the State have not neglected this issue. On the contrary, they have made it one of their primary concerns, in spite of its political and legal complexity, as has been attested by numerous international observers concerned with human rights issues in Kuwait. Accordingly, the complexity of this question has not prevented the competent authorities in the State of Kuwait from taking the requisite measures, which have recently begun to bear fruit.

18. For purposes of clarification, the administrative and organizational measures that the State has taken in this connection can be summarized as the promulgation of Decree No. 221/1993 of 19 October 1993 establishing a Central Committee to consider the situation of the above-mentioned persons, followed by the promulgation of Decree No. 57/96 terminating the work of the said Central Committee, and the promulgation of Decree No. 58/96 establishing an Executive Committee, the composition of which differed from that of the former Committee, to deal with the affairs of those persons (annex 5).

19. In view of the important role that this Committee is required to play in resolving that problem, the Kuwaiti legislature has endeavoured to ensure that its membership is at the highest and most senior level, comprising representatives of the competent authorities in the State. To this end, the Minister of the Interior was appointed as its Chairman and its membership included the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Minister of the Interior and the Director-General of the Civil Registry.

20. Article 2 of that Committee's terms of reference stipulates that its principal functions are to take executive measures to deal with the situation of illegal residents in accordance with the general framework, basic principles, criteria and decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers, to monitor the implementation of the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers concerning those persons and to propose the bills of law and regulations that it deems necessary to rectify the situation of those illegal residents. In accordance with the above-mentioned article, the Committee held a number of meetings in the light of which it took several measures including, in particular, the issue of cards to be presented by the persons covered by the Committee's terms of reference at the reception centres that had been established for civilians, military personnel and their families, at which files had been opened for them.

21. This Committee established numerous subcommittees, which examined the files of the persons concerned and took appropriate decisions on each individual case after interviewing the applicants.

22. It is noteworthy that, in the discharge of its functions, the Executive Committee is endeavouring to solve the problem of illegal residents in a comprehensive and radical manner and, to that end, is in constant contact with the authorities concerned in the State with a view to finding an optimum solution to this problem.

23. The policy pursued by the State in its quest for a solution to this problem has begun to produce some practical results exemplified by the recent approval by the Council of Ministers of Decree No. 60/1997 granting Kuwaiti nationality to the children of martyrs classified as bidoon.

24. The situation of women and the status that they enjoy in Kuwaiti society. First of all, the competent Kuwaiti authorities wish to emphasize that, in the State of Kuwait, women enjoy the same rights as those which the Constitution guarantees to men, with whom they are on an equal footing. These rights include the right to education and the right to work, various employment opportunities being freely accessible to Kuwaiti women in all fields.

25. With regard to employment at senior levels, Kuwaiti women hold numerous high-ranking posts in the State. For example, the first female Kuwaiti ambassador and the first female president of Kuwait University have been appointed and, for the first time, a woman has been appointed as Deputy Minister of Higher Education. Kuwaiti women also hold the post of assistant deputy in a number of ministries and State agencies.

26. Through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, in its capacity as the responsible body, the State has shown concern for the social aspect by establishing a number of departments in the social development sector at the Ministry, such as the Social Department and the Private Associations Department, all of which are concerned with social development at the local level and encourage voluntary development work by Kuwaiti citizens, who are the target of social development.

27. As part of its endeavours in this field, the State has announced the establishment of a Federation of Private Female Associations in the State of Kuwait to coordinate the private female voluntary associations.

28. From time to time, the State also reviews its laws, legislation and regulations concerning the advancement of women and, in particular, their status, in such a way as to promote the empowerment of Kuwaiti women and increase their contribution to social issues.

29. At the economic level, the State has played an effective role in protecting women from poverty, particularly since they bear the heavy burden of catering for the welfare of their families in the event of separation or the death or disability of their husband. Accordingly, the competent authorities have formed a committee to study and amend the Public Assistance Act in such a way as to provide greater support for families and rectify the negative aspects of its application. It is noteworthy that the Act has been submitted to the Council of Ministers so that the requisite measures can be taken for its promulgation.

30. At the private level, the Kuwaiti public welfare associations have established a committee to monitor issues of concern to women in all fields.

31. The status of foreign labour in Kuwait and measures taken by the competent Kuwaiti authorities to protect it and improve its situation. The State has shown concern for foreign labour in general, and domestic servants in particular, and is still endeavouring to ensure a decent life for this category of workers by taking a number of measures to provide them with legal protection. These measures include:

(a) Support for the rights of foreign labour in and outside Kuwait with a view to freeing workers from injustice and distress in conformity with the humanitarian spirit and social justice. To this end, Kuwait has ratified 114 international conventions adopted by the International Labour Organization and the Arab Labour Organization with a view to protecting workers;

(b) The establishment, at the Ministry of the Interior, of a department known as the Department of Domestic Labour Offices to regulate offices for the employment of domestic servants and provide guarantees to ensure that the latter enjoy their rights during and after their period of employment;

(c) The State promulgated Legislative Decree No. 40 of 1992 regulating offices for the employment of private domestic servants and other similar persons with a view to providing guarantees to ensure that this category enjoy their rights and are not exploited (annex 6). This was followed by the promulgation of Ministerial Ordinance No. 617 of 1992, which laid down the rules and procedures for the licensing of offices for the employment of private domestic servants and similar persons (annex 7);

(d) Ministerial Ordinance No. 115 of 1996 promulgated statutes regulating private recruitment agencies. These statutes contain special articles on the role and activities of those agencies, as well as penal provisions concerning the infractions that they might commit. The statutes

also comprise articles regulating the relationship between the employer and the recruited employee. It should be noted that these statutes will considerably reduce the number of grievances that arise between employers and employees after their recruitment (annex 8);

(e) The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has established a new department, known as the Department to Regulate Recruitment Agencies, to monitor labour questions in Kuwait and intervene to settle the disputes that arise between employers and employees;

(f) It is noteworthy that, within the context of its endeavours to improve the situation of foreign workers in its territory, the State of Kuwait has recently concluded bilateral agreements with labour-exporting States, including the Arab Republic of Egypt, in order to regulate the situation of foreign labour in Kuwait. Discussions are taking place with the Philippines with a view to the conclusion of an agreement establishing a joint committee to regulate labour (see annex 9). Draft agreements in this regard have also been drawn up with Turkey and Malaysia.

32. The fact that such steps have been taken by the State of Kuwait is a clear indication of its desire to improve the situation of foreign labour in its territory. In this connection, the State of Kuwait wishes to emphasize some important facts concerning this subject. In particular, since it began to host this category of workers, the State of Kuwait has spared no effort to improve their situation by taking measures designed, inter alia, to protect their rights. At the same time, it has diligently cooperated with international humanitarian and other organizations, as well as labour-exporting States, with a view to devising appropriate solutions to the problems of workers. The granting of permission to the representatives of international organizations and other persons to meet these workers is a clear indication of the State's policy in this regard. All this is further corroborated by the fact that the State studies and takes into consideration the comments made by those organizations and attempts to rectify and eliminate any shortcomings.

33. The endeavours of other Kuwaiti agencies and bodies. The above measures constitute only part of the endeavours made by the official agencies in the State since, in addition to the governmental authorities, the judicial authority has also made diligent endeavours in this field, as illustrated by the following:

(a) A Committee for the Defence of Human Rights has been established within the National Assembly to monitor human rights issues in Kuwait, receive complaints, devise appropriate solutions and follow up on their implementation in coordination with the official agencies concerned in the State (annex 10);

(b) In order to promote closer cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities in view of the Government's desire, like that of the parliamentary committee, to fully preserve human dignity, the Ministry of the Interior has formed a working group to look into human rights issues in Kuwait and coordinate with the parliamentary committee in this regard;

(c) In accordance with article 4 of the Convention in question, concerning the need for national legislation to incorporate provisions consistent with this article, some members of the National Assembly have tabled a bill amending various provisions of the Kuwaiti Penal Code (Act No. 16 of 1960) through the addition of two articles; the first prohibits incitement to, or acts of, discrimination between citizens on grounds of sex, origin, language, religion or confessional, tribal, regional or local affiliation, while the second stipulates that it is a punishable offence for any public official, in the discharge of his duties, to fail to respect the full equality of all the persons with whom he deals, provided that their circumstances and legal status are similar, without discrimination among them on grounds of sex, origin, language, religion, colour, belief or fortune.

At the international level

34. Within the context of its diligent endeavours to cooperate with the international community with a view to ensuring that everyone enjoys a better life in which his fundamental rights and freedoms are guaranteed within a harmonious society in which all aspects of the interests and well-being of every individual are catered for, the State of Kuwait has used various ways and means, at numerous levels, to achieve that objective by, inter alia, acceding to international human rights instruments and establishing bodies capable of contributing to the achievement of further economic and social development for the members of the international community through the pursuit of appropriate policies, in the manner described below:

35. International human rights instruments. At the time of preparation of its previous report, the State of Kuwait had acceded to six international human rights instruments: the Slavery Convention; the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1929; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid; the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

36. During the period from 1994 to 1996, Kuwait also acceded to the following conventions: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Under the provisions of article 70 of the Constitution, Kuwait's accession to those instruments vests them with the same status as the legislation in force in the country and all the competent authorities have an obligation to comply with them and implement their provisions.

37. In addition to the above, the competent bodies in the State now include a committee which has been established to study the possibility of the State's accession to the other international human rights instruments and it is hoped that this committee will complete its work in the near future.

38. The policies of the State in support of economic and social development programmes throughout the world. In keeping with its deep-rooted belief in the need to promote human rights, and in view of its firm commitment to improve the economic and social situation of the members of the international community, the State of Kuwait has taken care to ensure that these objectives form a basic and constant component of its foreign policy through the creation of the mechanisms needed to establish official bodies conducive to that purpose. The State has also encouraged, and is still encouraging, the non-governmental organizations and institutions which are pursuing a policy of extending economic and social aid to the citizens of other States.

39. With regard to governmental activities, the State has established numerous organizations and institutions specialized in the provision of economic aid to help other States to implement their economic and social programmes.

40. In 1961, it established the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the aim of which is to help Arab countries to develop their economies by providing them with loans to implement their development programmes. It goes without saying that the main purpose of the establishment of the Fund was not to achieve financial profit but solely to help Arab and other developing countries to implement their economic and social development programmes by providing them with extremely low-interest loans on easy terms. The booklet annexed hereto describes the Fund's endeavours to achieve its humanitarian aims (annex 11).

41. In 1966, the State established the General Agency for the South and the Arabian Gulf with a view to contributing to the development process in the countries of the South and the Arabian Gulf by providing them with financial grants to develop and improve their basic facilities in all fields related to the implementation of their economic, social and cultural development programmes.

42. In 1982, the State established the Kuwaiti Beit al-Zakat, one of the main functions of which is to disburse its financial receipts for the legally prescribed general charitable causes for which zakat (alms tax) is intended in accordance with the precepts of the Islamic Shari'a. Since its establishment, that institution has extended various forms of aid and assistance to beneficiary institutions and individuals in many countries.

43. Far from confining itself to the establishment of the above-mentioned bodies, the State has simultaneously endeavoured to take initiatives in international forums in pursuance of its policy of easing the burdens of the developing countries. For example, in 1988, in his address from the rostrum of the United Nations, His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait proposed that the interest be waived on the debts of the developing countries.

44. In October 1990, while the State of Kuwait was suffering under the iniquitous Iraqi occupation, His Highness announced that Kuwait intended to waive the interest on the debts of countries which had received loans from Kuwait and, in addition, Kuwait would also be looking into the question of the principal of the debts of the poorest countries.

45. In this connection, it is also noteworthy that forms of economic and social assistance have not been provided solely by the official agencies of the State; in fact, the State encourages private bodies and institutions to assist the citizens of other States. The directory annexed to this report contains the names of the Kuwaiti charitable institutions and their role in ensuring the flow of aid to the developing countries (annex 12).

46. Furthermore, far from confining itself to this legal position at the international level, the State of Kuwait is also continuing its endeavours to combat and eliminate the policy of racial discrimination in all fields and at all levels. As a matter of principle, Kuwait's firmly established position, which it is continuing to express in all international and regional forums, is that there is a need to eliminate that policy and achieve full equality among all human beings. This position is based on Kuwait's absolute conviction that racial discrimination constitutes a gross violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed in national legislation and international conventions.

With regard to the provision of information concerning the State's demographic composition in accordance with the fourth general recommendation adopted by the Committee on 16 August 1973

47. In this connection, reference should be made to the content of the previous report of the State of Kuwait.

In reply to the question as to whether the provisions of the Convention could be invoked before the courts and other administrative authorities and whether the latter could enforce those provisions directly or whether they would have to be converted into domestic legislation so that those authorities could put them into effect

48. In this connection, it is noteworthy that the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other human rights instruments are implemented in the State of Kuwait in accordance with the rule laid down in article 70 of the Kuwaiti Constitution, as already indicated in the previous reports of the State of Kuwait.

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL MEASURES TAKEN BY KUWAIT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 2-7 OF THE CONVENTION

49. As stipulated in the guidelines, this part comprises information concerning articles 2-7 of the Convention. In this connection, reference can be made to the details contained in the previous reports of the State of Kuwait concerning the legislative and judicial measures taken pursuant to the provisions of those articles, some of which are also covered by this report.

III. REPLY TO THE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

50. This part contains the replies to the comments and questions of the members of the Committee addressed to the representative of the State of Kuwait at the Committee's 995th and 996th meetings held on 9 August 1993 during which the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth reports of the State of Kuwait were considered. These questions and recommendations focused on the following subjects: the bidoon, domestic servants, naturalized persons and the right to vote, the situation of women, the situation of foreigners in Kuwait after its liberation, and trials.

51. With regard to the questions raised by the members of the Committee concerning the bidoon, domestic servants, naturalized persons and women, the information contained in this report concerning the achievements made in this and other fields and the measures taken by the Kuwaiti Government to find radical and final solutions to these issues provides a clear indication of the State's desire to take the comments and recommendations of the members of the Committee into consideration.

52. With regard to the question raised by the members of the Committee concerning the treatment of foreigners in Kuwait, it should be noted that, under the terms of the Amiral Amnesty promulgated in February, 10 Jordanian prisoners convicted of collaborating with the occupation authorities during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait were released.

53. Moreover, in 1995, the competent authorities in the State of Kuwait promulgated Decree No. 55 abolishing the State Security Court and, since that time, the matters which that court was competent to hear have fallen within the jurisdiction of the three levels of ordinary courts.

Conclusion

54. In conclusion, the competent authorities in the State of Kuwait wish to emphasize that the matters covered by this report, carefully prepared in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, focus on the legislative and practical aspects of the positive developments in the human rights situation in Kuwait during the period between its previous and present reports, particularly those developments entailing improvements in the human rights situation in general or in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention under review.

55. The authorities also wish to reaffirm that they are continuing their endeavours to achieve further progress in the human rights situation in Kuwait in the light of the lofty values that are deeply rooted in the conscience of human civilization. The authorities are continuing to cooperate with international and other bodies concerned with human rights issues and are ready to discuss the content of this report when it is due to be considered by the distinguished Committee.

List of annexes

1. This annex comprises the following reports:

(a) A copy of the note addressed by Kuwait to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in April 1995 concerning the measures taken by Kuwait in connection with the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(b) A copy of the State of Kuwait's note containing its viewpoint on the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;

(c) A copy of Kuwait's note concerning aspects of the State's implementation, at the national level, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

2. A copy of Act No. 44 of 1994 adding a new paragraph to article 7 of Decree No. 15 of 1959 promulgating the Nationality Act.

3. A copy of Act No. 32 amending some of the provisions of Amiral Decree No. 15 of 1995 promulgating the Kuwaiti Nationality Act and Act No. 35 of 1962 concerning the election of members of the National Assembly.

4. A copy of Decree No. 58/96 establishing the Executive Committee on Illegal Residents in the Country.

5. A copy of Legislative Decree No. 40 of 1992 regulating agencies for the employment of private domestic servants and similar persons.

6. A copy of Ministerial Ordinance No. 617 of 1992 laying down the rules and procedures for the licensing of agencies for the employment of private domestic servants and similar persons.

7. A copy of Ministerial Ordinance No. 115 of 1996 promulgating statutes for private recruitment agencies.

8. A copy of the State of Kuwait's reply to the complaint submitted by a Philippine organization in Australia to the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva.

9. A copy of the statutes of the National Assembly's Committee for the Defence of Human Rights.

10. A brochure published by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development containing basic information on the Fund's aims and functions.

11. A directory containing the names of Kuwaiti non-governmental organizations and their role in ensuring the flow of aid to the developing countries.